

## Message Text

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50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 003678

R 021450Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5318

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FACES RESTIVENESS AT PARTY CONVENTION

1. THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY OPENS ITS BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS WEEKEND AMID EVIDENCE OF SOME UNHAPPINESS IN PARTY WITH ITS CHAIRMAN, PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON.

2. LINGERING ANNOYANCE IN SOME IP CIRCLES OVER LAST YEAR'S COALITION AGREEMENT WITH ARCH-RIVAL PROGRESSIVES HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY CONCERN IN PARTY OVER HALLGRIMSSON'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LEADERSHIP SINCE GOVERNMENT FORMED. CRITICISM CENTERS ON GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY, WHICH MANY IN IP FEEL HAS BEEN MARKED BY DRIFT AND INDECISIVENESS OWING TO WHAT PM'S DETRACTORS CLAIM IS HIS UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO TAKE STRONG HAND. HIS CRITICS CHARGE HE HAS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE DOMINATED IN ECONOMIC MATTERS BY PP LEADER AND COMMERCE MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANNESSON.

3. AS RESULT, VICE CHAIRMAN GUNNAR THORODSSEN, LONG-TIME ASPIRANT FOR TOP SPOT, HAS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS APPARENTLY BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TESTING WATERS FOR POSSIBLE CHALLENGE TO HALLGRIMSSON IN VOTE

FOR CHAIRMANSHIP AT UPCOMING CONVENTION. THERE IS NO TRADITION  
IN ICELANDIC POLITICS FOR EFFORTS TO UNSEAT INCUMBENT PARTY  
LEADERS, AND CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT THORODSSEN'S ATTEMPT  
WILL NOT, IN FACT, BE ALL-OUT LET ALONE SUCCESSFUL. ELECTION  
WILL, NONETHELESS, BE WATCHED WITH MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST.  
SIZE OF VOTE WILL SHOW HALLGRIMSSON'S STRENGTH AGAINST POSSIBLE  
IP RIVALS AND ALSO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF BACKING HE COMMANDS IN  
DEALING WITH BOTH OPPOSITION AND COALITION PARTNERS.  
IRVING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY DISSENSON, PARTY ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975REYKJA00487  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750155-0015  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER FACES RESTIVENESS AT PARTY CONVENTION  
**TAGS:** PINT, IC, (HALLGRIMSSON, GEIR), (THORODSSEN, GUNNAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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